

Edmonton Bulletin.

VOL. II.

EDMONTON, N.W.T., SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1882.

No. 22.

TELEGRAPHIC.

WINNIPEG, March 24th, 1882.

Efforts are being made at Ottawa to have the Dominion Government land grant to the Manitoba South-western Railway cancelled, and to prevent the company from building the road to the international boundary line.

The bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister has received the third reading.

The House is not through with the Budget yet. Great complaint is made of delay in bringing forward important measures.

Sir John A. Macdonald has accepted the nomination for the county of Lanark, Ont.

Iron is on the way from New York for the completion of the Portage, Westbourne & North-western railway to Gladstone.

Another blizzard; trains blocked for five days.

Terrible accident on the Northern Pacific. A work train fell through a bridge near Mandan and caught fire. Eight men were killed or roasted to death and several others severely injured.

Another fire occurred in Winnipeg. The blacksmith shop in rear of the Queen's Hotel was burned to the ground. The Queen's was scorched but escaped.

Mr. Moorhouse, of Montreal is coming to the North-West to start a saw mill on the Saskatchewan.

Twelve horses perished from exposure on trains at St. Vincent during the snow blockade.

There was thunder, lightning and snow here on Friday last.

The Southern States are suffering terribly from floods.

The Mansion House committee, of London, England, has voted \$27,000 towards aiding emigration. Over 200 families have started for Canada.

FT. PELLY, 24th March, 1882.

The weather has been very stormy during the past week. Snow fell to a depth of about 13 inches.

Mr. Johnston, Indian farmer at Pelly leaves for Ellice in a few days. It is his intention to bring back with him all the seeds necessary for the coming spring.

The H.B.C. are building a large scow here to be placed on the Assiniboine river at Ft. Ellice for the accommodation of the public. There is also a smaller one in course of construction to be placed at the Shell River crossing of the Assiniboine.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Weather report for week ending Thursday evening, 23rd March, 1882. Reported for the BULLETIN by Mr. Geo. Slack Wood, observer at Edmonton.

	Max.	Min.
Friday,	- 7	-15
Saturday,	0	-15
Sunday,	0	-16
Monday,	2	-31
Tuesday,	22	-21
Wednesday,	19	1
Thursday,	28	- 5

Barometer falling.

The mark minus (-) signifies below zero.

Snow fell during Friday p.m., Saturday morning, Sunday morning and Wednesday morning about two inches. In all sixteen inches on the ground. Highest wind Friday, 17th, and Thursday, 23rd, noon observations recording eighteen and seventeen miles an hour respectively.

PUBLIC MEETING.

The meeting of Thursday night last in the school house was well attended, although the crowd was not as large as might have been expected, owing to the notice having been given such a short time before.

Mr. R. Hardisty was appointed chairman and read the resolution for the consideration of which the meeting was called. This was, in fact, a petition to the Governor-General, setting forth the state of insecurity which pre-

vails here in regard to the ownership of land, stating that certain persons had taken advantage of the fact of no surveys having been made to take possession of land owned by other parties, that in resisting this certain parties had placed themselves in danger from the law, and the intervention of His Excellency on their behalf was requested, as they were law abiding citizens and had acted in the interests of the law abiding portion of the community. For lack of space we are unable to publish the petition in full until next issue.

T. Anderson, Crown Timber Agent, moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by A. W. Kippen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Rev. Pere Leduc being called upon stated on behalf of himself and the Bishop and people of St. Albert, that they agreed entirely with the sentiments expressed in the petition.

Rev. Dr. Newton had no doubt that the Government was in accord with the sentiments expressed in the petition. Sometimes a Government was compelled to act from expediency and he thought that in the present case the action or want of action by the Government in land matters arose from an idea that if squatters rights were recognized by law there would be no end to the land speculation carried on, but he had every confidence that it was the wish of the Government to protect every actual settler in his rights, and he thought the petition would have the effect of calling the favorable attention of the Government to the matter.

Mr. T. Anderson was with the meeting. His position as a Government official made it impossible for him to take a prominent part in these matters, but he thought the petition was most loyal, and thought that it would have a good effect.

Mr. D. Ross being called upon, remarked that too much could not be said or done in a good cause, but that he knew enough to know that he could not make a speech.

Col. Jarvis did not know what to say after all that had been said. He did not approve of claim jumping, and was pleased to see the first attempt at the business fail. In the second case he was afraid that those concerned in the tumbling of the shanty over the bank would get into trouble, not so much on account of what they had done but because they had done so as a vigilance committee, an institution which the Government was down on. He had been accused of being hand and glove with the jumpers, but utterly denied being or having been so. Had no doubt that the petition would have a good effect, and that the man now on bail would not go quite to penitentiary.

Mr. L. Wood moved that the clergymen present should sign the petition as well as the chairman of the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Newton objected that he came here as a citizen, not as a clergyman. If the signatures of the community at large were required he would be glad to sign it but at present the signature of the chairman was all that was necessary.

Rev. Pere Leduc said that owing to the notice of the meeting not having been received at St. Albert until 3 o'clock that afternoon, the settlement at large was unable to attend, but he considered that he would be perfectly justified in signing on behalf both of Bishop Grandin and the people of the settlement, knowing that their sentiments were fully in accord with those of the petition.

After some further discussion, the chairman signed the petition on behalf of the meeting, and Rev. Pere Leduc on behalf of the people of St. Albert.

The meeting then closed with three cheers for the Queen.

REV. DR. NEWTON'S lecture at the school house on Sunday afternoon will be on "Beaconsfield, the great modern statesman." Service will commence at three o'clock.

ALL PARTIES indebted to the undersigned are requested to settle up before the 1st of April next.

D. M. McDougall.

THE members of the cricket club, and others who may wish to become members, are requested to meet in Villiers & Pearson's store on Monday evening next at 8 o'clock.

LOST—\$5 REWARD—Saundrie horse, branded J. H. I. on the left shoulder. The above reward will be paid to any person leaving him with the undersigned.

JAS. LAUDER.

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE on the Fraser estate. Apply to

J. LAKE.

HORSE FOUND—At Long Lake, of a bay color. Has been in the neighborhood for nearly a year, is sick and poor, and is now in charge of the undersigned. The owner is requested to prove property, pay expenses and take him away. For full particulars apply at BULLETIN office or to

SKE-NE-KEOW,

Long Lake.

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership lately subsisting between John Norris and Donald McLeod, under the firm of Norris & Co., was this day dissolved by mutual consent. Donald McLeod is authorized to settle all debts due to and by the company.

(Signed.)

JOHN NORRIS.
DONALD MCLEOD.

Edmonton, 7th March, 1882.

NOTICE!

The undersigned has received instructions from

VILLIERS & PEARSON

TO CLOSE OUT THEIR STOCK HERE. So all parties indebted either by book account or note are requested to call and settle up

BEFORE THE 1ST OF APRIL.

All accounts not settled then will have to be placed in court for collection, according to instruction.

JOHN A. McDougall.

BANNATYNE & CO.,

(successors to A. G. B. Bannatyne.)

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERS and dealers in

PROVISIONS, WINES AND LIQUORS,

292 Main St., Winnipeg.

ANDREW STRANG. JAMES BANNATYNE.

MULHOLLAND BROS.,

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Builders' Supplies, Mill Supplies, Belting, Lace Leather, Oils and Stoves.

Agents for the Washburne Manufacturing Company.

Galvanized, Steel Barbed Fence Wire.

STALKER & HUTCHINGS,

Wholesale and Retail Manufacturers and Dealers in all kinds of Horse Clothing.

HARNESS & SADDLERY.

RETAIL—307 Main Street Winnipeg opposite post office Portage la Prairie.

WHOLESALE—419 Main Street Winnipeg.

Special attention paid to orders from the North West.

BOW RIVER.

Messrs. F. Wilson and D. M. Macdougall got back from Bow River on Saturday last, having left there the Tuesday before.

They report bare ground all the way south of the Red Deer.

Provisions and goods generally are still scarce. Flour is worth \$15 a sack, bacon, 35 cents a pound, and beef 10 cents a pound.

Seed grain is in good demand, enquiries being principally made for barley.

The weather has been very favorable for cattle, but a great many are lost by slipping on the ice and being unable to get up, there not being sufficient herders to look after them. As no preparations whatever have been made in the way of corrals, stables or hay, had the weather not been so exceptionally fine, a great many of the cattle brought in last fall must have perished. As it is, Mr. Geddes, who brought in a band of 200 thoroughbred cows has already lost sixty head. The animals were probably always used to being stabled, and arrived, weary and foot sore, too late in the season to gain any in condition before winter, and were consequently not in a fit condition to stand exposure. Native or acclimatized cattle, however, are in splendid condition.

The Indians are said to be killing a good many cattle. On account of the scarcity of herders it is impossible to keep the cattle, and especially the late arrivals, from straying away, and it is supposed that the stragglers generally fall into the hands of the Indians. Sometimes an Indian will come in with a brand copied on a piece of wood, asking whose brand it is, and on being informed will say that an animal having such a brand has died in a certain place and that the meat has been used by himself and friends. But it is thought when the herds are rounded up in the spring a good many will be missing of which no account has been received. It is a remarkable fact that although the Indians have considerable of their treaty money left yet they never spend any for provisions, and whether they are receiving relief or not they never appear to be particularly hard up. Major Walker, manager of the Cochrane Ranch, however, expresses himself as well satisfied with the present condition and future prospects of this ranch.

The wages paid herders is only \$30 a month and board. This is not considered enough, and most of those employed at present are leaving while it is impossible to get experienced men to replace them at that price.

C. Shaw's railroad survey party has located a direct line to a point a few miles north of Calgary, and then ran it down to the valley of the river opposite the fort. There is no certainty yet where the road will run, but unless it becomes an object to run to Calgary in order to make a town there it will likely pass on the north side of the Nose Hill in a direct line with the present survey, with perhaps a short branch to Calgary. Mr. Shaw has left his party in camp a little below Calgary and gone to meet Gen. Rosser near the Red Deer Forks on the 12th of March.

A trial in regard to some alleged crookedness in Indian Department transactions was held at Ft. McLeod some three weeks ago. The southern district is divided into two agencies, the part around Ft. McLeod being under the control of Norman McLeod, and that around Calgary under Capt. Denny, late of the police force. All the relief supplies are brought from Ft. McLeod, J. G. Baker and Co. being the contractors. It seems that an amount of flour had to be forwarded to a relief station under the control of Capt. Denny. It was sent by J. Milette, freighter, and was billed by the clerk at Ft. McLeod as 95 sacks. The relief agent to whom it was sent received for 95 sacks and Milette was paid freight on that amount. He afterwards said that he had only actually hauled 75 sacks, and had received pay for 20 sacks that he had never hauled. This came to Capt. Denny's ears and he immediately took legal steps against the Ft. McLeod clerk for issuing false way bills. At the trial the way bill and receipts were produced, and besides, Mr. Davis, of the firm of J. G. Baker and Co., swore that 95 sacks had been actually loaded on the carts. Of course the prosecution came to nothing.

Small-pox has not yet got across the lines,

but it is raging in Montana, especially among the Indians. There have been no steps taken so far to establish a state of quarantine.

ST. ALBERT.

Next Sunday the 19th inst., in the cathedral of St. Albert, His Lordship Bishop Grandin will give the following holy orders: Rev. Bro. Louis Cochin will be ordained to the sub-deaconship, and Rev. Bros. Louis Dauphin and Leonard Vantighen to the priesthood. Rev. Father Leduc acting as archdeacon will explain the ceremonies of the ordination in French and English. Divine service to commence at 10 a.m.

On Thursday of last week the owners of the grist mill on Sturgeon river had a meeting at the mill. They agreed to adopt a circular saw as soon as possible. Lamoreaux Bros. intend to apply for a limit somewhere at Egg Lake. It was agreed at the meeting that Rev. Fathers Leduc and Blanchet would be managers of the property with Lamoreaux Brothers.

All the square timber required for the new hospital of St. Albert is now ready. Rev. Bros. Bowes, Boon, Lambert and Lavoie will commence the building by next May.

A telegram which was received by Bishop Grandin, sent to him from Montreal by Archbishop Tache, says that Rev. Father Scollen arrived safely in Montreal in the last week of February, with Rev. Father Petitot. This last Rev. gentleman has been received in an insane asylum at Long Point, near Montreal. From St. Albert to Calgary he tried to desert every night. After leaving Ft. McLeod he deserted again, and going to Col. McLeod, stipendiary magistrate, demanded his protection, and asked that he be allowed to reside on the Piegan reserves, near there. He said he did not know the roads there and besides he was tired of travelling with Father Scollen. Of course his request could not be granted, and he was handed over once more to Father Scollen. Hopes of his recovery are, however, entertained at the hospital. Rev. Father Scollen started the 1st inst. to come back to St. Albert via Helena, Shaw and Calgary.

36 lambs were dropped at the mission since the 1st of January. Only six or seven have died.

SUNDAY LECTURE.

The lecture on the morality of claim jumping and house moving by Rev. Canon Newton in the school house, on Sunday afternoon, was well attended. The Rev. gentleman said that it had sometimes been urged against ministers that they dealt too much with the events of past ages and too little with living realities. He proposed in this course of lectures to speak freely on subjects in which all were interested and in a manner which all could understand. He instanced the manner in which Abraham procured a family burial place in the land of Canaan—by paying for it with honest money—as an example to be followed by all those who wish to acquire lands already in the occupancy of others. Although Abraham had the promise from the God of Heaven that the whole land should eventually belong to his family, yet because it did not at the time belong he was willing to pay for what he required. It was understood in the law of nations that discovery entitled the discovering nation to possession, and it was laid down as an axiom by Blackstone that the first occupant of unclaimed land was in fact the owner and entitled to all the rights of ownership until dispossessed, and if dispossessed was entitled to adequate compensation. The fact that the Canadian government had bought and paid for the squatter's right of the Hudson's Bay Co.—for owing to the lapse of their charter they had no other rights—and also that of the Indians, was proof that the government considered the principle sound. The settler, who made his living out of the improvement of the land was more entitled to consideration than a squatter who merely resided on it but made his living in some other way. People were encouraged by government to come here and settle, and the government should see to it that they were protected in their ownership of the land which they must of necessity use, as well as in that of their other property. It was necessary in

the construction of society that the individual should give up his rights to constituted authority, or the government, but doing so gave him a right to claim the protection of that authority or government, and if that government failed to extend necessary protection to him it failed in its part of the mutual agreement and thereby let him at liberty to defend his rights as best he might. When a government ceases to perform its proper functions it ceases to be a government in fact. Under the Mosaic law the crime of land stealing or jumping was looked upon as most heinous, as witness the saying, "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's land mark," and the command "Thou shalt not covet." All should remember the saying "As ye would that others should do unto you do ye even so unto them," and when any one was tempted to deprive another of what was rightfully his, let him think would he wish to have the like done to himself; and if another required help to make good his rights, let him ask himself what he would wish that other to do were the case his own.

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BROWN & CURRIE'S

We have the largest and most complete stock in the whole North-West, and have already established beyond a doubt the reputation for selling the cheapest and best goods, comprising

GROCERIES,

DRY GOODS,

READY-MADE CLOTHING

BOOTS AND SHOES,
HARDWARE,

CROCKERY

AND FANCY GOODS

which were all purchased of the leading houses in Montreal, Hamilton and Toronto, and can now be sold at prices within reach of all. Our ready-made clothing is the best that can be produced. All selected especially by samples from the best and most reliable manufacturers in the line.

Call and judge for yourselves.

H. B.—Green tobacco in exchange for goods.

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CITY OF EDMONTON,

situated at the head of navigation on the North Saskatchewan River; the centre of the Gold, Coal, Timber and Mineral region of the Great North-West, and surrounded by the richest wheat-producing country in the world.

The four great highways leading from Winnipeg, the great Bow River grazing country, the Peace River country and British Columbia via the Jasper Pass, centre on the Town Site.

It is the terminus of the C.P. telegraph line, the North-West mail route, and the projected Saskatchewan branch of the C.P.R.

The Hudson's Bay Co. offer for sale 1,000 lots on the above town site at low prices and on reasonable terms.

All information can be had by applying at the H.B.C. offices in Winnipeg or Montreal.

R. McGINN, C. J. BRIDGES,
Agent, Edmonton. Commissioner

SAW MILL MACHINERY FOR SALE.—Complete except the rails. Terms half cash.
E. SMITH.

LOCAL.

J. HARRIS is still improving.

Not a horse race this winter. How is the glory departed!

INDIANS hunting in the Beaver Hills have done very well this winter.

GRAIN for grinding purposes is still plentiful but seed is very scarce.

DAN NOTTS, who recently sold his farm, and F. Sache, who did likewise, are going to move into town.

The vaccine matter is working all right on the Indians who were vaccinated at the agency here lately.

NORWITHSTANDING recent discouragements farmers are preparing to sow an increased acreage this spring.

E. LANGENZILL has purchased Ad McPherson's place, near the north-west corner of the H.B.C. reserve, for \$200.

The Labecan's, at Abram Selwyn's settlement on the Battle River are said to have traded 30,000 rats this winter.

The mail passengers did not leave Battleford until the afternoon of Saturday last. Their horses are said to be very poor.

A TRAIN of sleighs arrived from Bow River on Monday last with freight for the H.B.C. The same sleighs took out seed barley some time ago.

THRESHING is finished on the south side of the river. The Little Giant threshed 1,300 bushels, the H.B.C.'s machine and flails doing the rest.

JIM CAMPBELL asserts that it is still his opinion that the horse he sold Lang is the one he traded with Labelle for, and that Labelle is a horse out.

PASSAGE by the mail costs \$75 from Brandon to Edmonton with 50 cents a pound additional for baggage—passengers finding their own provisions and blankets.

The wheat brought by Mr. Steinhauer from Whitefish Lake weighed 62 pounds to the bushel, and two bushels and a half yielded 100 pounds of flour besides the toll.

SMITH has sawed over one hundred thousand shingles up to date, but will soon quit, as he wishes to get his engine away from the pines and across the Sturgeon River before the ice goes.

AN action has been entered by T. Smith against J. Larondie for damages occasioned by Larondie not having brought a part of Smith's saw mill machinery from Ft. Ellice, as agreed upon.

A HEAVY wind storm on Friday night last blew down a large part of the telegraph line between Selkirk and Winnipeg, and telegraphic communication was consequently suspended for several days.

RUMMER supplies were sent by the agency here to the Indians of Pigeon Lake and Lac Ste. Anne, last week. The Indians at both places were pretty hard up, but on the whole there has been less suffering this season than during the past two winters.

Some of the freighters propose going east this spring by a new route. They will cross the Battle River at Abram Selwyn's and go across the plains to the Red Deer Forks, where there is a skiff on the South Branch. They will cross there and go on to Qu'Appelle and Brandon. This route is very nearly the same as that to be taken by the proposed Saskatchewan branch of the C.P.R. and is the shortest practicable route.

The framework of the front wing of the new H.B.C. steamboat warehouse is up. The size is 30x60 three stories high. The structure is situated on the flat a short distance down the river from the Fort, and will comprise, besides the wing mentioned, a main building 230 feet long by 30 feet wide one story high. The main building will be on the level of the third story of the wing, the two lower stories of which are sunk below the level of the ground, the bottom being a few feet above high water mark. Goods will be transferred from the steamer to a floating scow, from which they will be taken into the lower story of the building and then hoisted to the upper flats by an elevator. It is not likely however that the main building will be completed this season as there will not in all probability be boats enough on the river to make such a large warehouse necessary.

FIREWOOD is worth \$3 per cord.

THE H.B.C. steam mill will be fitted with gristling machinery during the coming summer.

REV. S. PRITCHARD, of St. Paul's parish, Manitoba, is now the proprietor of the Fraser estate.

OWING to the light snow fall the frost is deeper in the ground this winter than it has been for several seasons past, although the weather has been milder.

J. WALTERS has taken out over 400 saw logs on the Little White Mud Creek. He intended to take out 1,000, but on investigation he found that he could not get at that number conveniently.

J. WALTERS has his wire ferry cable stretched across the river ready for operations as soon as the ice goes out. The scow will be lengthened so as to make it 33 feet long and it will accommodate six loaded carts, with animals, at once.

M. MCLEOD, who is expected to arrive today or to-morrow, from Gladstone, left his farm there two years and a half ago in disgust. During his stay there this winter he sold it for \$2,700. Matters must have improved greatly in that country lately. Mr. McLeod left here on the 17th of December, so that he will have occupied only about three months and one week in the round trip.

MAJOR WALKER of the Cochrane Ranch Co. is receiving tenders on behalf of the Government for the running of a monthly mail from McLeod, via Calgarry and Morleyville, to Edmonton. There will be a separate contract for carrying the mail from Helena to McLeod direct. At present the Bow River people run a private mail from McLeod, but this is a very heavy tax on the residents.

MESSRS. Osborne & Smith's mining machine will be ready to go on the river as soon as the ice is out. The fixings include a large and a small scow, a sixteen horse-power engine, a number of iron elevating buckets with loose bottoms for dumping the gravel, running on an endless chain, and a grizzly and sluice boxes of the ordinary pattern but of extraordinary size. The engine and sluice boxes are placed on the larger scow. The smaller scow is placed alongside and between the two the frame in which the elevating buckets run, is let down, the lower end resting on the gravel and the upper placed so that the buckets when turning over will empty on the grizzly. The power is applied on the pulley at the upper end of the frame by a belt from the fly wheel of the engine to a large wooden wheel attached to the axle of the pulley, outside the frame. Heavy iron hooks are also fastened on the chain to which the buckets are fastened to loosen up the gravel so that the buckets will take it up. Theoretically the machine is all right, but whether it will be practically or not is another question. However, the proprietors express themselves as determined to see it out at all costs. Mr. Osborne has another complete machine now on the way from Winnipeg, and during the summer he expects to replace the iron buckets that he has now ready by steel ones. He will run the two machines at once and expects to make gold so scarce in this river that the price will go up to \$20 an ounce.

BATTLE RIVER.

At last Bobtail and Ermine Skin have returned from the plains. Not finding any buffalo at the Hand they proceeded on to Bow River, where our Battle River Indians imagine they can get provisions all the year round, as they hear of the abundance the Indians of the south enjoy.

When the chiefs returned they found that one of Bobtail's oxen, in good condition, had fallen into a hole four feet deep near chief Sampson's house. The ox was attended to for five days, and was doing well but on the morning of the first of March between midnight and daylight, they butchered him, and now have a supply of beef.

Bobtail's people have not been in much want, as they still have a quantity of good potatoes, and the supply of rats is not exhausted.

The Indians' hay is getting scarce. Sampson and Bobtail have very little and their cattle are picking the most of their living.

Battle River, March 2nd 1882.

CITY OF EDMONTON,

situated at the head of navigation on the North Saskatchewan River; the centre of the Gold, Coal, Timber and Mineral region of the Great North-West, and surrounded by the richest wheat-producing country in the world.

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AND FANCY GOODS,

which were all purchased of the leading houses in Montreal, Hamilton and Toronto and can now be sold at prices within reach of all. Our ready-made clothing is the best that can be produced. All selected specially by samples from the best and most reliable manufacturers in the line.

Call and judge for yourselves.

N.—Grain taken in exchange for goods.

BROWN & CURRY.

FIRST CLASS NATIVE FLOUR at Frank Oliver's at \$12 a sack.

AT STOP AT

and consider, housekeepers, whether it is more prudent to have leaky articles of tinware in your culinary department, to those that are sound, strong and substantial. I

AT CLAIM AT

to be able, as well as prepared, to guarantee satisfaction both in repairing and manufacturing, using nothing but first-class material, without

AT JUMPING AT

up the western scale of prices.

Repairing a specialty. Orders promptly attended to.

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All kinds of

AT FARMING IMPLEMENTS

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Advertising rates:—Five lines, three insertions, \$1.00; ten lines, three months, \$5.00; ten lines, six months, \$10.00.

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OLIVER & DUNLOP,
Proprietors.

EDMONTON BULLETIN, MARCH 25, 1882.

FORCE vs FORCE.

For some reason or other, Mr. George has failed to prosecute, at present, those concerned in the destruction of the building by the erection of which he was trying to get possession of the Sinclair claim. It is impossible to say at present just how the law will look on the matter, but we cannot see how it can wink at the action of one man in forcibly depriving another of the use of property of which he is in full and peaceable possession, and take measures against that other for forcibly removing the means by which this object was being accomplished. Mr. George, in erecting his building on the claim in question, certainly deprived the owners of the use of the part of it occupied by the building and fully intended to deprive them altogether of the balance, doing so in defiance of their protests, or, in other words, by force. They, on the other hand, in defiance of his protests, thereby regaining the use of it for themselves, but without attempting to retain possession of his building as he did of their land. The fact that the owners had received no title from the Government makes no difference in regard to the fact of their present ownership. Inasmuch as this land has not been reserved, those who take possession of it do so with the tacit consent of the Government and can only be dispossessed by the Government, in which the title to the land rests.

It may be that the Government will not in the end allow the land to those who are at present in possession, but if they do not allow it to those who have actually owned it, how much less likely are they to allow it to those whose only claim to it lies in the fact that they have stolen or attempted to steal it.

Had the original owner of the claim gone into the woods, say five years ago, and cut a quantity of logs, we presume that he would have been acknowledged as the legal owner of those logs, no matter what timber laws might be made in the future, or in what way they might become forfeit to the Crown. If he sold these logs to a second party, and be again to third parties, we believe that the ownership of the third parties would be just as secure in law as that of the original owner was. And supposing a fourth party should step in and say "the Government is the owner of this timber, and it has given these parties no right to it, they are not using it to as good advantage as I could, so I will take it and settle with the Government for it." And supposing he should act on the idea and take possession of the timber in the face of the protests of the owners or their agents, and while yet in the act it should be taken from him again by the owners, which party would then have placed himself within the danger of the law—he who tried to take by force what was not his, or those who defended what was lawfully theirs, by force?

TELEGRAPHIC.

As spring will soon be here, and with its advent telegraphic communication with the

outside world will undoubtedly be at an end, it may not be out of place to call public attention to the fact, in order that measures may be taken in time to prevent this from taking place. For the last two years it has never been possible to keep the line in repair between Ft. Pelly and Winnipeg during the summer months, and, as a consequence, the whole line became practically useless. The cause of the trouble was the fact that from Selkirk to Pelly the line ran, for the greater part of the distance, through a marshy country, in which it was impossible to keep the poles standing or to travel from place to place to repair.

As long as it was considered that the railroad would run along the line there was some excuse for trying to keep it up, but now, when it is certain that the road will not go there, or in that direction, it might as well be abandoned. The attempt to keep it in running order costs a great deal of time and money, and gives very little satisfaction in return.

Along the present route of the C.P.R. the telegraph line is finished as far as Brandon, and undoubtedly early in the spring it will be finished to Qu'Appelle. The present mail route follows a trail from that point to Humboldt, on the present telegraph line, passing through a good and partially settled country all the way, and it would add greatly to the convenience of travellers along the road and to that of the people of the North-West generally if the line was extended between those two points, a distance of some 100 or 110 miles. The expense of building such a connecting link would not amount to the sum necessary to keep the line between Pelly and Selkirk in repair for a single year, and if the money was expended in that way it would not be lost as it is at present.

It seems that the magnificent sum of \$5,000 has been placed in the estimates for public buildings in the North-West, but whether for the repair of old buildings or the erection of new ones we have not been informed. If the Government are pretty badly stuck for a place to squander so much wealth to good advantage in, we beg to inform them that they can find plenty of use for it, or double the amount, right here. At present there is an Indian agency, a timber agency, a Government telegraph office and a post office, all occupying rented apartments in the H.B.C. fort. Besides, Edmonton has been, is and will be the base of supplies for all survey parties operating in the Upper Saskatchewan country, and generally one or more of these parties winter here, also renting quarters from the H.B.C. In view of these facts we humbly submit that it would add considerably to the dignity of the Government, besides being a profitable investment, if suitable buildings were erected here for the accommodation of these different Government officials.

If appears to be the intention of the Ottawa Government to abandon Battleford and locate some other place as the capital of the North-West—probably the C.P.R. crossing of the South Branch. If the North-West is to have a capital it is about time it was finally located, or else made a perambulating institution like the Ontario provincial exhibition. Ft. Pelly and Battleford have both been condemned as unsuitable, and there is no certainty that the new capital will be any better. As the district is still undeveloped, and in fact uninhabited, in which it is likely to be placed, it may be that when the country fills up it will be found to be far away from the centre of population; and, indeed, if it is placed at the point mentioned, there is no

doubt this will be the case, and of course it will have to be removed again at great expense. For the present, we believe the Dominion Government would find it more advantageous to institute an India rubber capital on wheels, with a putty governor and wooden officials. Such an affair would be much less expensive in the end and answer every purpose quite as well as the present clumsy, expensive and utterly useless institution.

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